WELLINGTON

URBAN DISTRICT

(Somerset).

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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1942.

By R. DE VEIL KING,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1942.

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1942.

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WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1942.

Area (in Acres)	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population	7,324
Census Population, 1931	7,132
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books, Dec. 31st, 1942	2,110
Rateable Value—31st Dec., 1942	£37,705
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 31st Dec., 1942	£150 14s. 0d.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics.

Live Births:—	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	85	48	37	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population —12.56
Illegitimate	7	4	3	
	92	52	40	

Still Births:—Total .. 4

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	41.6
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population	0.54

Deaths:—Total .. 97

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population	13.24

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	*Rates per 1,000 Births.*
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	—
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	—

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age:—Total .. 5

Death Rate of all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	54.34

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16
Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

Rates for England & Wales as a whole, per 1,000 Civilian Population:

Live Births	15.8	,, ,, ,,
Still Births	0.54	,, ,, ,,
Deaths, all causes	11.6	,, ,, ,,
Maternal Mortality, all causes	2.01	per 1,000 Total Births
Infant Mortality	49.0	,, ,, ,,

Causes of Death during 1942.

Cause of Death	*M.*	*F.*	*Total*
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	3	3	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	—	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Cancer of breast	—	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	4	9	13
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	4	9	13
Heart Disease	7	15	22
Other Disease of the Circulatory System	1	3	4
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Other Respiratory Disease	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Disease	2	1	3
Nephritis	1	4	5
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	1	—	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth injuries, etc.	—	2	2
Suicide	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—
Other violent causes	—	2	2
All other causes	7	3	10
All causes—Total	39	58	97

Infant Mortality During 1942.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformation	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Broncho-Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

A review of the facilities to be obtained is contained in the Report for 1938. No changes have occurred since then. The Sick Bay at "Avondale" continues to do work of the greatest importance for in-patients as well as out-patients. The following table shows the work done during the year.

IN-PATIENTS:

Admitted 106. Daily average of in-patients 7.4. Number of in-patient days 2,697. Admissions were for the following complaints:

Scabies (including complications)	73	Erythema nodorum	1
Impetigo	12	Septic conditions (hands, feet, etc.)	14
Eczema	1	Malnutrition	1
Dermatitis	1	Observation and Miscellaneous	3

OUT-PATIENTS:

Number treated 197. Number of out-patient attendances 1,560.

Scabies (including complications)	20	Ferunculosis	13
Impetigo	31	Abrasions, cuts, bruises, sprains	54
Pediculosis	11	Burns	5
Pyo-dermatitis	37	Miscellaneous	26

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Circular 2773 from the Ministry of Health states that no reference should be made to activities in connection with war-time extensions of Water Supply or Sewerage Works or other public utility undertakings.

The following is a Summary of the Salvage collected by the Council and by Toc H during 1942:—

	By the Council.		*By Toc H.*	
	Tons.	*Cwts.*	*Tons.*	*Cwts.*
Paper	59	4	59	16
Bones	2	18	1	10
Rags	3	16	4	2
Metal—Ferrous	70	8	6	2
,,—Non-Ferrous	2	4	—	—
Kitchen Waste	56	4	—	—
Rubber	1	6	1	11

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector's report is as follows:—

Nature and Number of Inspections during the year:—

Dwelling-houses	85
Premises where Food is sold or prepared	29
Bakehouses	14
Disinfection of Premises, etc.	75

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	37
Statutory Notices	—

Results of Notices served—

Total Notices complied with	29
Notices standing over from 1942	8

Conditions Remedied:—

Defective Drainage	22
Defective Sanitary Fittings	30
Dampness abated	11
Provision of New Water Closets	7
Miscellaneous	28

The 75 Disinfections were for the following conditions:—

Tuberculosis	5	Cancer	3
Scarlet Fever	16	Scabies	41
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3	Vermin	6
Chicken Pox	1		

HOUSING.

There has been a considerable decrease in overcrowding, which was in the main caused by the influx of evacuees from bombed areas finding their own accommodation. The majority of these persons have now left the district, thereby considerably easing the situation. The position has also been lessened by some members of the larger families being away in H.M. Forces. Of the 27 cottages in Clearance Areas and 9 flats, which last year were all occupied by evacuees, at the close of the year only 21 cottages and 5 flats were still occupied.

The shortage of houses to meet the needs of the district still continues, as is evidenced by the number of applications on the files for Council Houses. This will increase when the men who have married whilst in the Forces return home.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

At the close of the year the following were officially billeted in the district under the Scheme:—

Unaccompanied Children	118
Mothers	26
Accompanied Children	34
Teachers	10
Helpers	5
Other persons	66
	259

This total of 259 persons may be compared with 803 persons in 1941 and 1548 persons in 1940.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—The inspection of Farms and Dairies, and the taking of Samples of Milk in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938, were continued during the year. Fifteen Samples of Milk were taken, four of which were found to be unsatisfactory, viz.: Pasteurised 3, Accredited 1.

Two licences have been issued by the Council to produce and sell Pasteurised Milk.

No Cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculoss Order, 1925.

The number of Milk Producers on the Register is 16, the number of Distributors only 9, and the number of Distributors who are also Producers 5. The number of Producers of Milk has fallen since the end of 1940, when there were 25.

MEAT SUPPLY.—All Meat for the district is slaughtered and inspected in Taunton Borough and Rural District as a war measure.

BAKEHOUSES.—Fourteen inspections were made to the Four Bakehouses in the district. They are in a satisfactory condition.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following gives the number of notifications for notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year, other than Tuberculosis. A noticeable feature is that no cases of Measles and Whooping Cough were notified under the Regulations of 1939, and there were no notifications for Diphtheria.

	Number of Notifications.	*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population* *Wellington U.D.*	*E. & W.*
Scarlet Fever	15	2.04	2.19
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	*72.9	*12.6
Pneumonia	1	0.13	1.07
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	0.27	0.14
Erysipelas	1	0.13	0.30

* The Puerperal Pyrexia notification rate is calculated on the basis of total births and not civilian population. The rate for the district is very high and is influenced by a Maternity Home which receives women to be confined who reside normally in other districts: the notification rate is therefore fallacious.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

During the year 82 school children, and 80 pre-school children were immunised against Diphtheria. This work is done by the Medical Officers of the Somerset County Council and by General Medical Practitioners. Since 1940 when the immunisation scheme commenced, to the end of 1942, a total of 761 children of school age, and 336 of pre-school age have been immunised.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases and number of deaths from Tuberculosis are shown in the following Table:—

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		*Non-Respiratory.*		*Respiratory.*		*Non-Respiratory.*	
Age Periods.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	—	1	1	—	—	3	1	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	1	4	2	—	3	3	1	—

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE TAUNTON AND DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD for the Year ended 31st December, 1942.

NOTES.

Hospital administration during the past year has been extremely difficult owing to the shortage of Nursing and Domestic Staffs and the employment of non-resident women. The Matron has overcome many difficulties and with her usual perseverance and energy, maintained a high standard of work in the Hospital so that the patients have not suffered. The number of Nursing Staff days was 4989, the lowest on record even during the years when half the work was done at the Hospital. The Nursing Staff has throughout the year kept stable at about 2/3rds of the normal number.

The Domestic Staff has consisted of 4 resident and 6 non-resident women, which is about 25% less than the normal requirements.

The Laundry Staff has remained stationary, four non-resident women being employed. By careful management, the Matron has been able to save 2 to 3 tons of fuel monthly by getting the laundry work completed in four days per week, despite the fact that during the year the Board agreed after representations from the County Medical Officer of Health, to undertake the whole of the disinfecting and laundry from Belmont Sick Bay, and the sterilizing of dressings, etc., from the Emergency Unit Maternity Home at Tetton House, Kingston. This fuel saving has been a very creditable performance.

The outdoor staff of two men remains normal, but their work, too, has been augmented owing to the increased use of the Steam Disinfector, which takes up one man's whole time for two to three days a week.

SANATORIUM.

Admissions:	Male	10
	Females	20
	Total	30
Discharged:	Males	4
	Females ..	15
	Total	19
Deaths:	Males	6
	Females	5
	Total	11

Total patient days = 6690.

The beds have been kept full throughout the year.

The deaths during 1942 have been the lowest on record.

The extra work entailed by using the Isolation Hospital Theatre for Artificial Pneumo-thorax refills continues and 83 refills have been administered and the Theatre used almost weekly.

R. DE V. KING,
Medical Superintendent.

March, 1943.

Isolation Hospital, Cheddon Road,
Taunton.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

TABULATED STATEMENT FOR 1942.

Constituent Authorities	Admitted	Brought forward, 1/1/42	Remaining, 31/12/42	Discharged	Died	Scarlet Fever	S.F. & Diphtheria	Diphtheria	Mumps	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	C.S.M. "Carrier"	Tubercular Meningitis	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Tonsilitis.	Chichen Pox.	Septic Abortion	Puerperal Sepsis.	Nursing Mothers	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Contact Infants	Para Typhoid "B"	Polio Myelitis	Enteritis	Foreign Body in Larynx	Vincent's Angina	Cerebral Haemorrhage	Scabies	Dysentery	Otorrhoea	Appendicitis	Rheumatism	Influenza	Patient Days.
Taunton Borough	115	3	20	96	2	82	1	10	–	2	–	1	–	2	–	8	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	3392
Wellington U.D.C.	18	3	4	17	–	15	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	694
Taunton Rural	17	2	1	18	–	6	–	3	1	2	–	–	2	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	537
Wellington R.D.C.	17	1	2	15	1	8	–	2	–	1	–	1	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	368
Bridgwater Rural	18	2	1	19	–	16	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	391
Dulverton Rural	3	–	–	3	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	81
Other Authorities	4	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	131
War Office	6	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	2	2	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	148
Maternity and Child Welfare																																			
Somerset C. C.	51	2	3	50	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	36	2	6	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1320
Taunton Corpn.	6	–	–	5	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	165
Private Case	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	17
Staff	3	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	45
	259	13	31	237	4	130	1	15	4	10	1	2	4	5	2	11	2	3	42	2	6	4	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	7289